

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. FUNDERBURK] at 12 noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Teach us always, gracious God, to use our words as instruments of information and understanding, as agents of communication and contact, so that our expressions bring us together and allow us to share in our common heritage and our collective concerns. Remind us that we should choose our words wisely for we know that comments clearly stated and given for the purpose of knowledge can promote harmony and mutual assurance and can lead all people to greater respect and reverence toward one another. Bless us and all Your people, O God, this day and every day. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 64. Concurrent resolution authorizing the 1995 Special Olympics Torch Relay to the run through the Capitol Grounds.

VETERANS BENEFITS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, check this out. Military bases are closing all over America. Veterans benefits are

being cut. Veterans cost-of-living allowances are being cut. Veterans outpatient clinics are being closed. Veterans pensions are being slashed.

Think about that. What bothers me is our Government is going to provide 25,000 dollars' worth of vouchers to buy houses for Russian soldiers. Beam me up. Maybe I missed something down here. We have got veterans literally sleeping on steel grates, trying to find an opportunity to get a job, but we are giving \$160 million to Russia so that these Russian troops coming back from the Baltics will be able to find a place to live. If they cannot, we, the American taxpayer, will build them a house for \$25,000.

Ladies and gentlemen, is there any reason why we are bankrupt? America has the best government that Russia ever had and that most of these other countries ever had. While we are going south, they are all doing well with our tax dollars.

I say it is time to send some of these American gurus who made this decision over to Siberia, let them freeze their buns a little bit over there and maybe it will get them a house back here in America.

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to proceed out of order for 3 minutes.)

H.R. 390

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, since no one else is here at this point, H.R. 390 is a bill that would change the burden of proof in the tax case. Right now, if you go to a tax court on a civil case, the IRS can lien your house, take your bank account, take your parakeet, take your rubber duckie, and you have to prove you are innocent because you are considered guilty in that court.

H.R. 390 says, first of all, whenever a taxpayer goes to court in America there is one standard, and that is an American is innocent until proven guilty, and I shall switch and the American taxpayer shall be deemed innocent as well.

Second of all, you have 10 days where the IRS has to let you know what problem you have with your tax form. Cite the position of the regulation or the statute, in which your tax report has some problems. And finally, before they can take your house, take your car, take your bank account, they have to present facts to a court of law and have a court order to do so.

I think it is time, my colleagues. If innocent until proven guilty worked for the Son of Sam and Jeffrey Dahmer, how is it that grandma and grandpa, mom and dad or American taxpayers are guilty and a court must prove them innocent? Let us get on with our business. I am asking whoever is in the Congress who may be watching this to cosponsor H.R. 390 and have the Committee on Ways and Means bring the bill out.

The American people should be treated at least as well as a common murderer in a tax court.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Alaska) at 12 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.

MORE FOREIGN AID CUTS URGED

(Mr. FUNDERBURK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, America's foreign policy structure needs to be overhauled. The current system is a relic of the cold war. It is duplicative and inefficient, and its foreign aid programs are a disaster.

Despite billions of dollars, those we have given aid to are mired in poverty. In fact, we have done these countries more harm than good by promoting socialist economic and agricultural programs. Of the 15 countries receiving the most U.S. aid, the Heritage Foundation's freedom index rates 12 as "mostly unfree," 1 has a repressed economy, and 2 are rated "mostly free."

A foreign aid program which supposedly buys the good will of foreign leaders while they ruin their own countries cannot be tolerated. If it is to be handed out it must promote free market reforms. Also a majority of the countries receiving U.S. aid consistently vote against us at the U.N. Foreign aid must be tied to America's interests. Is it not about time we had an American desk at the State Department.

At a time we are talking about cutting back on housing, student aid, and farming programs it is not fair to cut foreign policy programs by only \$1 billion each year for the next 5 years as the International Relations Committee bill does. It is not enough. Streamlining the State Department's bureaucracy both here and abroad is vital. Let us tell the American people that we are serious about setting new priorities for American foreign policy. Let us cut the fat at Foggy Bottom.

WHO WILL BE HURT BY CUTS TO MEDICARE AND MEDICAID?

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to use my 1 minute to quote some sections of a Star Ledger editorial